

Message Text

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TO WHITE HOUSE

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E.O. 11652: 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: SITUATION IN VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA AS OF 0600

HOURS (EST), APRIL 4, 1975

SITUATION REPORT NO. 3

WHITE HOUSE PASS TO PALM SPRINGS FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER

INDO-CHINA TASK FORCE

VIET-NAM

REFUGEES (SECRET)

THE FIRST US MILITARY AIRLIFT OF VIETNAMESE ORPHANS HAS
ENDED IN TRAGEDY WITH THE CRASH OF A C-5 CARGO AIRCRAFT
WITH 243 ORPHANS, 43 ESCORTS AND UNDETERMINED NUMBER OF
OTHER PASSENGERS. THE ESCORTS, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS,
WERE FEMALE EMPLOYEES AND DEPENDENTS OF US MISSION
PERSONNEL. THE AIRCRAFT APPARENTLY DEVELOPED A

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MALFUNCTION AND CRASHED SEVEN MILES OUT OF TAN SON NHUT

AIRPORT. DETAILS ARE NOT AVAILABLE BUT THERE ARE SURVIVORS.

US SEALIFT OPERATIONS FOR EVACUATION OF REFUGEES FROM COASTAL ENCLAVES TO PHU QUOC ISLAND, WITH ONE EXCEPTION, CONTINUE WITHOUT INCIDENT. USAID IS ESTABLISHING TEMPORARY CAMPS IN THE GENERAL VICINITY OF SAIGON AND SURROUNDING PROVINCES.

REPORTS THAT A NEW GVN POLICY OF PREVENTING REFUGEES FROM FLEEING WAR ZONES, IF TRUE, COULD SUBJECT THE GVN TO SEVERE CRITICISM FROM THE US AND ABROAD. PRESS REPORTS INDICATE THAT THE GVN HAS PERMITTED SOME 37,000 REFUGEES TO ENTER SAIGON BUT THAT NO OTHERS WOULD BE PERMITTED TO ENTER. CLARIFICATION HAS BEEN REQUESTED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

PRESIDENT FORD'S MENTION OF AIRLIFT ASSISTANCE FOR 2,000 ORPHANS TOUCHED OFF A NATIONWIDE FLURRY OF ACTIVITY AND QUERIES.

UNITED NATIONS AND VOLUNTARY AGENCY INTEREST IN VIETNAM HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IS INCREASING. AMBASSADOR SCALI IS SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH SENATOR EDWARD KENNEDY, UNHCR CHIEF PRINCE SAHRUDIN, AND CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES REPRESENTATIVES AT AMERICAN COUNCIL OF VOLUNTARY AGENCY HEADQUARTERS IN NEW YORK 1100 HOURS APRIL 4. USUN HAS SUGGESTED THAT AID ADMINISTRATOR PARKER BRIEF AMBASSADOR SCALI ON US POSITION, EVACUATION POLICIES, AND PROCEDURES

BEFORE THE MEETING.

GVN REPORTEDLY ARRESTS MILITARY OFFICERS FOR ALLEGED COUP ATTEMPT (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

SEVERAL WIRE SERVICE AGENCIES, CITING A STATEMENT BY A MINISTRY OF INTERIOR SPOKESMAN, REPORT THAT THE GVN ARRESTED SEVEN MILITARY OFFICERS APRIL 4 FOR ALLEGEDLY PLOTTING TO OVERTHROW PRESIDENT THIEU. EMBASSY SAIGON INDICATES THAT SIX ARRESTEES HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED. AT SECRET

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LEAST ONE WAS A CLOSE SUPPORTER OF FORMER VICE PRESIDENT KY AND AN APPARENT ORGANIZER OF THE APRIL 2 SENATE RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A CHANGE IN NATIONAL LEADERSHIP. THE CURFEW HAS BEEN MOVED FROM 10:00 PM WITH ORDERS TO FIRE UPON DISORDERLY PERSONS.

GENERAL WEYAND DEPARTS SAIGON (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

US ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF GENERAL FREDERICK WEYAND DEPARTED SAIGON APRIL 4 AFTER A WEEK LONG VISIT TO THE RVN. IN A DEPARTURE STATEMENT TO NEWSMEN AT TAN SON NHUT WEYAND SAID THE VIETNAMESE ARMED FORCES CAN DEFEAT THE NVA IF PROPERLY SUPPORTED.

PRG PRESS CONFERENCE (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

DINH BA THI, ACTING HEAD OF THE PRG DELEGATION TO THE LA CELLE ST. CLOUD TALKS, GAVE HIS SECOND PRESS CONFERENCE IN NINE DAYS. EVIDENTLY STUNG BY THE WIDELY PUBLICIZED SCENES OF REFUGEES FLEEING THE COMMUNIST ADVANCE. THI CLAIMED THAT THE "GREAT MAJORITY" OF THE POPULATION IS STAYING IN PLACE AND HELPING THE PRG TO NORMALIZE LIVING CONDITIONS IN THE "LIBERATED" AREAS. THI ATTACKED THE USG REFUGEE EVACUATION EFFORT, CALLING IT A VIOLATION OF THE PARIS ACCORD. THI HANDED OUT SEVERAL DOCUMENTS SETTING FORTH PRG POLICY FOR DEALING WITH VARIOUS CATEGORIES OF PEOPLE IN RVN AND URGING THE GENERAL POPULACE TO PRESS FOR THE OUSTER OF THIEU AND THE ESTABLISHMENT IN SAIGON WITH WHICH THE PRG WOULD DISCUSS TERMS.

RTG DISAPPROVES SAFEHAVEN IN BANGKOK (SECRET)

RTG INFORMED EMBASSY BANGKOK APRIL 4 THAT GIVEN CURRENT THAI POLITICAL SITUATION IT CANNOT PROVIDE SAFEHAVEN FOR ADDITIONAL DEPENDENTS OF US PERSONNEL SERVING IN VIETNAM. RTG PLEDGED FULL COOPERATION FOR ASSISTING WITH TEMPORARY

TRANSIT OF PERSONNEL THROUGH THAILAND ENROUTE TO SAFEHAVEN OR PERMANENT RESIDENCE ELSEWHERE BUT CAN NOT AGREE TO THEIR REMAINING IN BANGKOK.

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MILITARY (SECRET)

IN MR III, WHILE GENERALLY QUIET, IT IS EXPECTED THAT THERE WILL BE ATTACKS UPON TAY NINH CITY BY LOCAL COMMUNIST FORCES PERMITTING LARGE SCALE SHIFTS OF REGULAR UNITS TO MR IV. ELSEWHERE IN MR III THE NVA APPEAR TO HAVE OCCUPIED CAM RANH AND PHAN RANG AIRBASE HAS BEEN EVACUATED. PHAN THIET, IN MR II, REMAINS IN ARVN HANDS AND IS QUIET.

PUBLIC INQUIRIES (UNCLASSIFIED)

AS PREVIOUSLY NOTED, AND THE TREND CONTINUES, PUBLIC INQUIRIES HAVE MAINLY CONCERNED THE PROBLEM OF ADOPTING VIETNAMESE ORPHANS AND HOW TO DOCUMENT OR FACILITATE ENTRY

INTO THE UNITED STATES OF BOTH RELATIVES OF US CITIZENS AND OTHERS. WE HAVE ASKED EMBASSY SAIGON FOR ITS COMMENTS IN VIEW OF THE GVN'S CONTINUED BAN ON TRAVEL. THERE HAVE BEEN FEW CALLS RECEIVED CONCERNING THE WELFARE/WHEREABOUTS OF US CITIZENS IN VIETNAM.

CAMBODIA

EVACUATION OF GKR NATIONALS (SECRET)

THE RTG HAS GIVEN THE GREEN LIGHT TO PROCEED WITH EVACUATION OF KHMER NATIONALS FROM PHNOM PENH TO TWO PORTS OF ENTRY IN THAILAND WHEN THE EVACUATION IS TRIGGERED. THE EMBASSY IN PHNOM PENH HAS BEEN ASKED TO HELP FACILITATE RELEASE AND PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION TO BANGKOK OF 105 CAMBODIAN ORPHANS FOR WORLD VISION RELIEF ORGANIZATION.

POSSIBLE CEASEFIRE NEGOTIATIONS (SECRET)

EMBASSY BANGKOK REPORTS THAT THAI FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI BELIEVES THAT THERE IS A SLIGHT CHANCE OF A CEASEFIRE IN CAMBODIA IF PRIME MINISTER LONG BORET CAN BE BROUGHT TOGETHER WITH SIHANOUK'S ELDEST SON PRINCE YUVANETH WHO APPARENTLY REMAINS IN BANGKOK ON APRIL 6 ON THE RETURN TRIP TO PHNOM PENH FROM INDONESIA WHERE HE
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ACCOMPANIED LON NOL'S PARTY. CHATCHAI APPARENTLY BELIEVES THAT YUVANETH CAN, THROUGH HIS FATHER, INFLUENCE THE

COMMUNISTS TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS.

PHNOM PENH AMMO, RICE AND POL STOCKS (CONFIDENTIAL)

U.S. EMBASSY REPORTS THAT FANK FORCES HAVE APPROXIMATELY 6450 SHORT TONS OF AMMUNITION (5-12 DAY SUPPLY) ON HAND AS OF APRIL 4 WITH AN ADDITIONAL 310 SHORT TONS SCHEDULED FOR DELIVERY WITHIN THE NEXT 24 HOURS. FANK POL RESERVES AVERAGE 14 DAYS SUPPLY. GKR RICE STOCKS TOTAL 7269 SHORT TONS WHICH IS SUFFICIENT TO FEED LOCAL POPULACE FOR 12 DAYS.

FANK MILITARY GAINS (CONFIDENTIAL)

FANK HAS RECOVERED MOST OF THE POSITIONS LOST NORTHWEST OF THE CAPITAL WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE NORTHERN DIKE AREA. THERE WAS SCATTERED FIGHTING ELSEWHERE AROUND PHNOM PENH INCLUDING THE NOW VULNERABLE SOUTHEASTERN SECTOR CLOSEST TO THE U.S. EMBASSY.

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